CLAIMS

1. (Amended)   An image data distribution system comprising:

a request information receiving means for receiving client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing means for analyzing the request information received by the request information receiving means;

a multiple viewpoint image supply means which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing means and decodes and supplies selected data;

an image generating means which, based on image data supplied from the multiple viewpoint image supplying means, generates image data of an image viewed from a predetermined viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing means for synthesizing a plurality of images data generated by the image generating means, based on display unit information from the request information;

a coding means for coding image data synthesized by the image synthesizing means;

a transmitting means for transmitting coded image data by the coding means to the network;

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a receiving means for receiving the coded image data via the network;

a decoding means for decoding the coded image data received by the receiving means;

5   an image processing means for processing decoded image data by the decoding means so as to be displayable on a display means;

the display means for displaying image data processed by the image processing means;

10   a request information input means for allowing input of the client's request information; and

a request information transmitting means for transmitting the request information to the network.

15   2. (Amended)   An image data transmitting apparatus comprising:

a request information receiving means for receiving client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing means for analyzing the

20   request information received by the request information receiving means;

a multiple viewpoint image supply means which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based

25   on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed

by the request information analyzing means and decodes and supplies selected data;

an image generating means which, based on image data supplied from the multiple viewpoint image supplying means, generates image data of an image viewed from a predetermined viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing means for synthesizing a plurality of images data generated by the image generating means, based on display unit information from the request information;

a coding means for coding image data synthesized by the image synthesizing means; and

a transmitting means for transmitting coded image data by the coding means to the network.

3. (Cancelled)

4. The image data distributing system according to Claim 1, further comprising a management information adding means for adding management information for enabling access to the image data of individual viewpoints and random access, to the multiple viewpoint image data.

5. The image data transmitting apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a management information adding means for adding management information for enabling access to the

image data of individual viewpoints and random access, to the multiple viewpoint image data.

6. (Amended)   An image data distribution system comprising:

a request information receiving means for receiving client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing means for analyzing the request information received by the request information receiving means;

a multiple viewpoint image supply means for supplying multiple viewpoint image data;

an image generating means which, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing means, receives input of necessary image data from the multiple viewpoint image supply means and generates image data of an image viewed from a predetermined viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing means for synthesizing a plurality of images data generated by the image generating means, based on display unit information from the request information;

a coding means for coding image data synthesized by the image synthesizing means;

a transmitting means for transmitting coded image data by the coding means to the network;

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a receiving means for receiving the coded image data via the network;

a decoding means for decoding the coded image data received by the receiving means;

an image processing means for processing decoded image data by the decoding means so as to be displayable on a display means;

the display means for displaying image data processed by the image processing means;

a request information input means for allowing input of the client's request information;

a request information transmitting means for transmitting the request information to the network; and

a judgement means for judging whether the received image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

7. (Amended)   An image data receiving apparatus comprising:

a receiving means for receiving coded image data by way of a network;

a decoding means for decoding the coded image data received by the receiving means;

an image processing means for processing decoded image data by the decoding means so as to be displayable on a display means;

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the display means for displaying image data processed by the image processing means;

a request information input means for allowing input of request information of a client;

5   a request information transmitting means for transmitting the request information to the network; and

a judgement means for judging whether the received image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

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8. (Amended)   An image data distribution system comprising:

a request information receiving means for receiving client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

a request information analyzing means for analyzing the request information received by the request information

15   receiving means;

a multiple viewpoint image supply means for supplying multiple viewpoint image data;

an image generating means which, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the

20   request information analyzing means, receives input of necessary image data from the multiple viewpoint image supply means and generates image data of an image viewed from a predetermined viewpoint in conformity with the request

25   information;

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an image synthesizing means for synthesizing a plurality of images data generated by the image generating means, based on display unit information from the request information;

a coding means for coding image data synthesized by the image synthesizing means;

a transmitting means for transmitting coded image data by the coding means to the network;

a receiving means for receiving the coded image data via the network;

a decoding means for decoding the coded image data received by the receiving means;

an image processing means for processing decoded image data by the decoding means so as to be displayable on a display means;

the display means for displaying image data processed by the image processing means;

a request information input means for allowing input of the client's request information;

a request information transmitting means for transmitting the request information to the network; and

an identification information adding means for adding to the image data to be transmitted a piece of information that indicates whether the image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

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9. (Amended)   An image data transmitting apparatus comprising:

a request information receiving means for receiving client's request information transmitted by way of a network;

5   a request information analyzing means for analyzing the request information received by the request information receiving means;

a multiple viewpoint image supply means for supplying multiple viewpoint image data;

10   an image generating means which, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing means, receives input of necessary image data from the multiple viewpoint image supply means and generates image data of an image viewed from a

15   predetermined viewpoint in conformity with the request information;

an image synthesizing means for synthesizing a plurality of images data generated by the image generating means, based on display unit information from the request information;

20   a coding means for coding image data synthesized by the image synthesizing means;

a transmitting means for transmitting coded image data by the coding means to the network; and

an identification information adding means for adding

25   to the image data to be transmitted a piece of information

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that indicates whether the image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

10. (Amended)   An image data receiving apparatus comprising:

a receiving means for receiving coded image data by way of a network;

a decoding means for decoding the coded image data received by the receiving means;

an image processing means for processing decoded image data by the decoding means so as to be displayable on a display means;

the display means for displaying image data processed by the image processing means;

a request information input means for allowing input of request information of a client;

a request information transmitting means for transmitting the request information to the network; and

an identification information adding means for adding to the received image data a piece of information that indicates whether the image data is of two-dimensional image data or stereoscopic image data.

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